

NOTICE HANDLING ROAD KILL DEER



An example of a deer sampled by MDWFP.

Courtesy MDWFP



A possible CWD-positive deer in Marshall County. CWD causes weight loss. Other symptoms are sagging heads and drooling.

Courtesy MDWFP

As front line employees, MDOT maintenance workers are often responsible for removing road kill from highways and rights-of-way.

With recently confirmed cases of Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD] in the state, employees should take certain precautions when handling road kill, especially deer.

MDOT and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks [MDWFP] are working together to understand the disease and help prevent its spread. MDWFP is depending on MDOT employees to notify the agency of road kill locations so wildlife agents can sample the deer for testing.

When handling road kill:

1. Wear PPE.

Latex gloves will prevent fluids from touching your skin.

2. Move the road kill as little as possible.

Standard procedure is to move road kill to the edge of the right-of-way, out of sight of motorists. If road kill is in a yard or an urban area, dispose of the carcass in the closest suitable location.

3. If the road kill is a deer, take a picture or record the GPS location of the disposal site.

Your supervisor will share the location with the District contact who will then notify MDWFP.

4. If a road kill deer has its throat cut open, MDWFP agents have already sampled the deer. Dispose of it like normal. No picture or GPS location is needed.

WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE [CWD]?

It's important to remember that there is **NO EVIDENCE** that humans can contract CWD from handling infected animals.

CWD is a brain-degenerating disease that primarily affects deer and elk. It is caused by misfolded brain proteins called "prions." Prions are able to survive in infected animals, soil, vegetation and water. Deer contract the disease by eating infected food or drinking infected water.